

Summary of 4/9/14 Horizon Hill Park Task Force

- The following staff was present at the meeting; Steve Mader- Superintendent of Parks and Facilities and Craig Simoneau –Director of Public Works
- The following information was provided to the task force:
 - ✓ Who owns the forested stream valley west of the embankment and where does the City property end? Sections below the City property line/boundary belong to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
 - ✓ What can be done to protect the asphalt path in the sections used for maintenance, especially adjacent to the pond? Staff will include increasing the amount of stone underneath the path and increasing the depth of asphalt in specific locations.
 - ✓ Provide examples of fitness equipment. Examples of fitness systems were provided to the task force. A request was made to provide the location of various systems within the city so the task force members could visit the sites. The locations are as follows:
 1. Senior Center – 1150 Carnation Drive – Located adjacent to the back parking lot.
 2. Horizon Hill Park – Hurley Avenue entrance across from 409 Hurley Avenue Located between the tennis courts and parking lot on left hand side.
 3. Fallsgrove Park – 700 Fallsgrove Drive – Walk past the tennis courts toward the open field. Units are on the right side of the path.
 4. Mattie Stepanek Park – 1800 Piccard Drive – Located adjacent to the playground.
 - ✓ What will the patio look like? The option presented by the city included a kidney bean shaped stamped concrete pad with curved metal benches. An alternative option was presented by Arthur Wilson. His presentation is attached.
- Consensus remained on the following items as a result of discussions and informal votes during the meeting.
 - ✓ The path across the embankment should be similar to the base option presented.
 - ✓ There should be no bridge across the ponds.
 - ✓ The terminus of the path, on the embankment, should be a stamped concrete patio. However a new proposal was presented for a pergola with seating and landscaping.
 - ✓ Additional benches should be installed on the embankment.
 - ✓ A picnic shelter or gazebo should not be included in the park. However the City should reconsider the configuration of the patio to include a pergola structure, additional fence, benches and landscaping.
 - ✓ The section of path between N. Commons Way and S Fallsmead Way should be widened to 6'.
 - ✓ Two interpretive signs should be included on the embankment explaining the function of the ponds as well as the forested stream valley to the west.
 - ✓ Lighting in the park should not be considered.

- ✓ A new picnic table should be installed near the basketball court area. Slope will dictate the location.
- ✓ All three playgrounds should have the rubberized play surface.
- ✓ A drinking fountain should not be included.
- ✓ The asphalt path should not be stamped with distance markings.
- ✓ Two benches should be included between N. Commons Way and S. Fallsmead Way.
- ✓ Additional trash cans should be included at the active recreational areas adjacent to S Fallsmead. Old trash cans should be replaced with new trash cans
- ✓ A bench and interpretive sign should be installed at the ponds off of Longhill Drive.
- Consensus made on several new items.
 - ✓ Add boulders and plantings to soften the look of the riprap channel
 - ✓ A fitness cluster should be included, however the task force wants to look at the units already located in some city parks.
 - ✓ Add a bike rack near the basketball courts.
 - ✓ City staff can locate trash cans, benches and the picnic table as they feel most appropriate.
 - ✓ A pergola, if acceptable on the embankment.
- Items to still be resolved include:
 1. What type of fitness cluster should be installed
 2. Final locations of all amenities
 3. Final configuration of the patio on the embankment
- Arthur Wilson presented an alternate idea for the terminus of the path across the embankment. The presentation is attached. The presentation included adding a pergola, concrete/flagstone wall, benches, additional soil, plantings and a descriptive plaque. The presentation was well received by the task force. Staff committed to looking into the ideas and determining what portions would be acceptable on the embankment. Staff has determined that a pergola no larger than 144 sq. ft. can be installed without footings. The post for the footings can be surrounded with a stone base. No additional soil can be added to the dam. Split rail fencing is acceptable. No shrubs, trees or woody vegetation can be planted on the dam. Staff recommends installing the concrete patio as part of the first phase and adding the other elements later.
- Task force members requested a list of the plants being proposed. The list is attached.
- Currently no additional meetings have been scheduled for the task force.